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Agenda item 100 (a)

HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS: IMPLEMENTATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS INSTRUMENTS

Note by the Secretary-General

1. The Convention on the Rights of the Child, which entered into force on 2 September 1990, has been ratified or acceded to by 167 States. Thus, within a relatively short period of time, the Convention has become the international human rights instrument with the largest number of ratifications.

2. At its forty-seventh session, the General Assembly approved the organization of work of the Committee on the basis of two sessions per year and the establishment of a pre-sessional working group (resolution 47/112).

3. While welcoming the decision of the General Assembly, the Committee continued to express concern over its ability to cope with its increasingly heavy workload and recognized the need to adopt urgent and adequate solutions to deal with the situation. Consequently, at its fourth session (September/October 1993) the Committee decided to request the holding of a special session in 1994, which took place in April 1994.

4. At its fifth session (January 1994), the Committee decided to request the Secretary-General to convene a meeting of States parties to the Convention - in accordance with article 43, paragraph 10, of the Convention - in advance of or during the course of the forty-ninth session of the General Assembly, with a view to reviewing the duration of meetings of the Committee and to recommending the holding of a third regular session as from 1995.

5. The Secretary-General convened the meeting of States parties on 10 October 1994. At that meeting the States parties adopted by consensus resolution CRC/SP/1994/1, strongly supporting the recommendation contained in the report of the Committee on the Rights of the Child 1/ that as from 1995 the number of its annual sessions, as well as the number of the meetings of its working group, should be increased to three; and recommending that the General

Assembly at its forty-ninth session take action for the implementation of the proposed revision of the duration of the sessions of the Committee.

6. In accordance with article 43, paragraph 10, of the Convention, the recommendation of the States parties is subject to the approval of the General Assembly.

7. The text of the resolution adopted by the meeting of States parties on 10 October 1994 is reproduced in the annex to the present document.

Notes

1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 41 (A/49/41).

ANNEX

Resolution CRC/SP/1994/1, entitled "Determination of the duration of the meetings of the Committee on the Rights of the Child as provided in article 43, paragraph 10, of the Convention", adopted by the meeting of States parties on 10 October 1994

The States Parties to the Convention on the Rights of the Child,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 47/112 of 16 December 1992,

Recalling the recommendation of the World Conference on Human Rights 1/ that the Committee on the Rights of the Child, with the assistance of the Centre for Human Rights, be enabled expeditiously and effectively to meet its mandate, especially in view of the unprecedented extent of ratifications and subsequent submission of country reports,

Recalling also Commission on Human Rights resolution 1994/91 2/ and the report of the Committee on the Rights of the Child on its fifth session, 3/

Concerned at the workload of the Committee and at the risk of building up an undesirable backlog in the consideration of State party reports submitted pursuant to article 44 of the Convention,

Convinced that an adequate amount of time for the meetings of the Committee is a vital factor in ensuring the continued effectiveness of the Committee in future years,

1. Strongly support the recommendation contained in the report of the Committee on the Rights of the Child 4/ regarding the organization of the future work of the Committee that the number of annual sessions of the Committee as from 1995, as well as the number of sessions of the working group established to conduct a preliminary review of State party reports and to consider questions relating to technical assistance and international cooperation, should be increased to three;

1/ A/CONF.157/24 (Parts I and II).

2/ Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1994, Supplement No. 4 (E/1994/24), chap. II.A.

3/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 41 (A/49/41).

4/ Ibid., chap. I, sect. A.3.

2. Recommend that the General Assembly at its forty-ninth session take action for the implementation of the proposed revision of the duration of the sessions of the Committee;

3. Request the General Assembly at its forty-ninth session to authorize the Secretary-General to ensure the provision of appropriate staff and facilities, within the overall existing budget framework, for the effective performance of the functions of the Committee.